

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /096 W

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R 081304Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9340

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6244

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, IS, JO, SA

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN UN OFFICIAL FROM SAUDI ARABIA VISITS
WEST BANK WELFARE PROJECTS

1. MIN SOCIAL WELFARE FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICER LAVINE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF AUG 8 THAT DR. ISHAK QUTUB, UN ADVISER TO DEPT OF COMMUNITY WORKS IN SAUDI ARABIA VISITING JERUSALEM RELATIVES UNDER SUMMER VISITORS PROGRAM, HAD CONTACTED MSW WITH REQUEST TO SEE GOI SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED AREAS, AS REPORTED IN ISRAELI PRESS. UNFORTUNATELY ISRAELI PRESS AND RADIO AUG 6 REPORTED QUTUB'S CALL IN JERUSALEM ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR AVITSUR OF MINISTRY (AND ALSO INCORRECTLY STATED HE IS SAUDI DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY WORKS). THIS PUBLICITY PROMPTED QUTUB TO CANCEL EXTENSIVE TOUR OF MSW ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED AREAS. LAVINE SAID QUTUB IN FACT DID VISIT SEVERAL WELFARE PRJECTS IN WEST BANK AUG 6 BEFORE HE WAS AWARE OF WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY. MSW IS UPSET AT NEWS LEAK WHICH THEY FEEL HAS ABORTED POSSIBLE FRUITFUL CONTACT WITH QUTUB. LAVINE THOUGHT THERE WAS STILL POSSIBILITY QUTUB WOULD CONTINUE WITH PORTION OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE BEFORE
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HE LEFT JERUSALEM.

2. LAVINE SAID QUTUB IS WEST BANKER, SON-IN-LAW OF SHEIKH MUSTAPHA M'SALI, GUARDIAN OF DOME OF THE ROCK IN JERUSALEM. QUTUB INITIALLY CONTACTED UNDP JERUSALEM OFFICE ABOUT WEST BANK PROJECTS AND WAS REFERRED TO MSW BECAUSE UNDP HAS NO ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED AREAS. MSW OFFICIALS SET UP SCHEDULE FOR QUTUB TO HAVE COMPLETE PICTURE OF MSW APPROACH TO WEST BANK SOCIAL PROBLEMS. LAVINE SAID QUTUB CAME TO WEST BANK LAST YEAR AND VISITED SEVERAL CHILD WELFARE CENTERS APPARENTLY THROUGH HIS OWN LOCAL CONTACTS.

3. JERUSALEM POST AUG 8 REPORTED QUTUB ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT AUG 7 CORRECTING PREVIOUS ERRONEOUS REPORT ABOUT HIS CAPACITY AS SAUDI OFFICIAL. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS UN COMMUNITY WORK EXPERT ASSIGNED TO SAUDI ARABIA, NATIVE OF RAMALLAH NOW ON HOME LEAVE WITH FAMILY IN JERUSALEM. QUTUB IS REPORTED AS SAYING HE HAD VISITED VARIOUS WELFARE, COOPERATIVE, CHARITABLE, WOMEN AND YOUTH CENTERS IN HEBRON, BETHLEHEM AND EL-BIREH "ENTIRELY IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY."
VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV06244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VELIOTES
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730849/aaaabkdg.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN UN OFFICIAL FROM SAUDI ARABIA VISITS WEST BANK WELFARE PROJECTS
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, IS, JO, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005